



**For Immediate Release:**  
Nov. 3, 2000

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## **IDEM Receives Grant to Improve Indoor Air Quality in Schools**

Tools for Schools, an indoor air quality kit, gives Hoosier schools the means to improve the quality of air their students breathe.

“Poor indoor air quality has been linked to illness and absence in schools,” said Paula Smith, IDEM’s director of planning and assessment. “To fight this threat to our children, IDEM will provide our public schools with free training or workshops, a ‘Tools for Schools’ kit and many other incentives.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded IDEM a \$30,000 grant to provide Hoosier schools with the resources they need to address and improve indoor air quality through its own program called Tools for Schools.

The kit materials help schools carry out a plan of action to improve indoor air quality at little or no cost using simple activities and in-house staff. The materials kit includes checklists for teachers, health professionals and facility managers as well as background information, sample memos and policies. The kit also contains an indoor air quality management plan as well as a unique problem-solving wheel.

In addition to the kit, IDEM provides schools with guidance to help save resources through reducing absenteeism, weakening of ventilation systems, reducing the possibility of school closings, reducing potential liability problems and preventing strained relationships between school administrations, parents and staff.

“Research has shown that nearly one in 13 school-aged children has asthma, which is the number one chronic illness leading to school absenteeism,” said Tami Johnson, IDEM’s children’s environmental health coordinator.

For more information regarding Tools for Schools please call (800) 988-7901 or check us out on the World Wide Web at [www.epa.gov/iaq/schools](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools).